Northampton's Music Magazine
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FREE

NOTES FROM THE VOID

New names, Familiar Faces, New Sounds from

"VINCENT" & The Elephant Presents

OUR MANIFESTO

No one should be excluded from performing their music in public because of their neurotype, disability, age, or inexperience. A band playing their first gig is as valuable as someone playing their thousandth, and the age of a performer has no bearing on how good they are or whether they should be given good gigs.

Some neurotypes and mental health conditions make it harder for musicians to find opportunities and make networking an impossible task, which means the gigs don't come. We aim to remove that barrier.

We understand that some music is deemed too 'weird' to be given good gigs: that's wrong, they shouldn't be relegated to the outer edges of open mic nights - they should be on the bills at proper gigs, with their name on the poster.

We are a group of musicians from various bands, and we aim for full inclusivity, to give valuable shows to the people who are ignored by some of the gatekeepers. We stand against ageism, ableism, exclusion of any kind, and favouritism. We stand for the overlooked and marginalised.

We make each gig valuable to the acts performing, with long-lasting impact. We have an etiquette guide that makes the shows stress-free, and once the gig has ended, we do things for the acts who have performed, whether it's recording them cheaply (or even free), helping with instrument repairs, or enabling them to go and do what we do elsewhere.

There was a void, and we filled it.

Read the long version at https://linktr.ee/avoidcollective

IN THE ROOM WITH NEIL FROM **THE ELEPHANT PRESENTS**

Got to ask this. The Dodo's split up very suddenly and unexpectedly, what happened?
behind the scenes I think the dodos were coming to an end for a while, I think it was a case of going through the motions - as they say,I think we both had different agendas for what the band was,that didn't often align and our significant difference in Taste, interest and personality are contributing factors in why it ended - also I felt quite limited in what we could do with the set up we had ,vocals,guitar and drums- my main objective with all artistic ideas is to experiment and I think with that band- we had ran out of new "Chemicals" to mix.

The Elephant Presents shares some DNA with the previous act, but a lot is new, can you talk us through the changes and what drove them? Who is in the band?
That DNA being me I guess ? I think that like everyone im a product of my influences-
Math rock, prog, free jazz, experimental rock, death metal...
Although I do have some music theory knowledge and understanding such as modal scales and time signatures... I do very much rely on instinct and feeling ... and I never deliberately set out to write something that should go like "this"
I allow the universe to dictate to me what happens and kinda just go with it ... so this is my method and I guess relying on that means that there will always be an aspect of that making an appearance in everything I do - I guess the newness comes from the incorporation of drum machines and synth- Something I have worked with in my solo projects but never in the environment of a band and certainly never a live band Situation- I think also we are going for improvisation, and feeling and very much an in the Moment vibe to our live shows -
For me what drove them is after the dodos spilt I was hoping to do something weirder, more unpredictable and chaotic - and the other member of "elephant" Julian - who I've known for years and have been in bands with got back in touch with me at exactly the right time - and THIS time what was proposed perfectly aligned with that I was hoping to do

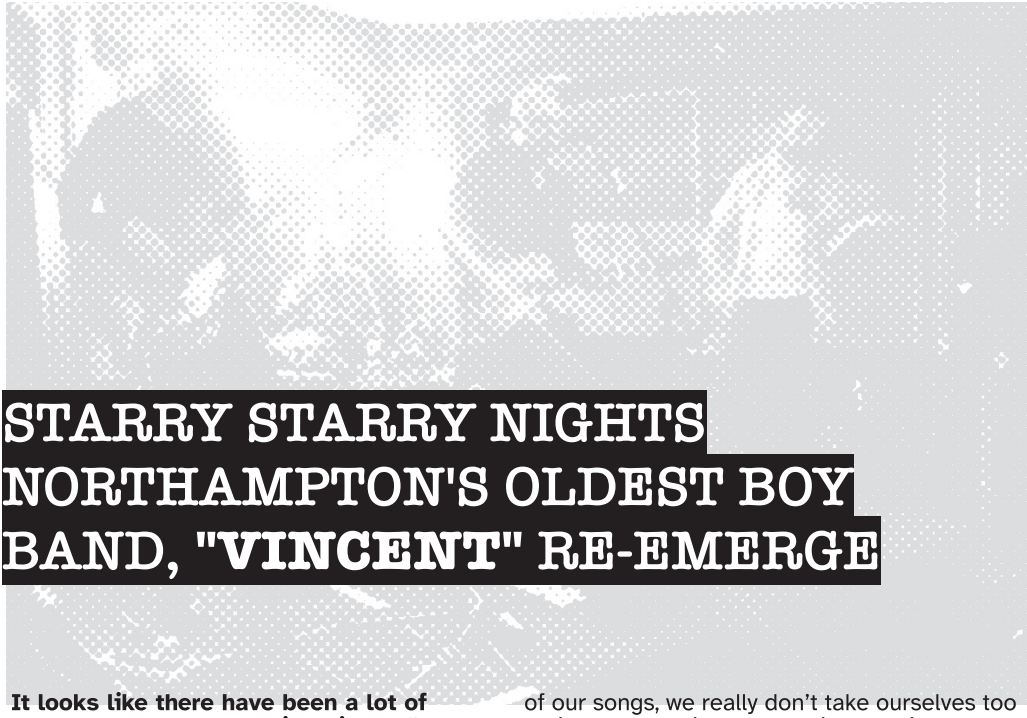
How would you describe the sound you're making now?
Something "different" I hope... drum machine driven -weird guitar FX and synth noise - all thrown together with a sprinkling of absurdist humour and silly vocals

What are your hopes for the band, what kind of musical 'journey' are you hoping for?
Our top priority is FUN- we want to do different things and experiment, playing with different sounds and toys - and I think our live shows will be significantly improvised - because we like the feeling of the unexpected - of course they'll always be a "song" in there - but the free jazz element of the freedom without restrictions of structure is very liberating and inspiring - our hopes are for the odd gig here and there
And just keep evolving and experimenting in as many ways as possible.

What's coming up in the immediate future? We can see you've already released 'Dean & Sheila" on the recent Socks On Records "Bootlegs & B-Sides" compilation, a gloriously bizarre mix (to our ears at least) of Beefheart and Bis, with a little bit of circus music thrown in. Can we expect an EP or some singles soon?
We record, produce and release everything ourselvzies - and we're currently recording songs - we'll release them as often as possible socks on records have been so kind to put our song on their compilation and have shown support for us already -
And the Beefheart mention made me well up because he's my God! - so thanks for that

Where can people learn more?
We are on Instagram, Facebook etc - but we also have a YouTube page that we upload episodes of us doing stuff.

https://www.instagram.com/the_elephant_presents/



STARRY STARRY NIGHTS NORTHAMPTON'S OLDEST BOY BAND, "VINCENT" RE-EMERGE

It looks like there have been a lot of changes over the years in "Vincent", can you give newcomers a potted history of the band?
Formed in 2012, we hit the ground running as a dark, electric, uneasy listening 4 piece. Expanding the lineup briefly to a 5-piece then down to a drummer-less 3-piece to explore a looser, more acoustic vibe. Life changes for the most part meant we were unable to get together as often as we'd have liked in recent years but we're back on it now!

What is different now compared to previous incarnations?
As mentioned above, we are now drummer-less but have gained an additional guitarist in Darren Rogers (ex-Leeds United Starlet, Jono & The Uke Dealers). If nothing else, bringing the combined age of the band down a good few years!

What have your experiences of the Northampton scene been over the years?
Well, as gig-goers mainly in recent years , there has always been a really strong and eclectic NN music scene. Always a good vibe wherever we go.

What has been the high point of playing music for you?
Despite the nature of our music and subjects of our songs, we really don't take ourselves too seriously so having a great time playing our songs, connecting and meeting people which are always very positive. We do seem to be a magnet for a strange heckle though, they always pretty funny though!

What do you wish hadn't happened? Do you have any gig horror stories?
Nothing springs to mind on the above, I really wish we did have some gig horror stories, we only seem to have weird/funny ones.

If you were to give one piece of advice to new bands, what would it be?
Oooo... that's a difficult one as we'd probably benefit from a bit of advice ourselves, but probably just write the songs, go out and play them and enjoy the ride.

Where can we hear more of your music, and what's next for "Vincent"?
We'll be gigging more this year, that's for sure and we have a batch of new songs that we are working through with a view to recording and release later this summer/early autumn.

We have a 4-Track EP on bandcamp and a single 'All that Glitters' we released last year on all streaming platforms.

https://linktr.ee/vincentvegaband

a little extra slice of void
a void collective presents
voidfest jr
Thursday 25th of June
BROKEN CASTLES/BOILERMEN
JOY DISPOSAL UNIT/DECADENCE
Friday 26th of June
THE KEEPERS/"VINCENT"/WÜLVS
THE ELEPHANT PRESENTS/JOE BOMBAST
two night take over at the lab
free entry for members, a quid for everyone else